

**City of East Orange**

NEW JERSEY



**East Orange Department of Health & Human Resources  
143 New Street  
East Orange, New Jersey 07017**

**EAST ORANGE BOARD OF HEALTH  
REGULAR MEETING**

**June 16, 2015**

**5:30 PM**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER: 6:05 PM**

Board President Christine Harris read The Sunshine Law into the record and after the roll call, it was determined there was a quorum to convene the meeting.

**Board Members Present**

Cynthia Barnes

Tobbia M. Corbitt

Reverend Jean Maurice (departed at 6:35 pm)

Rosemary Brown (arrived at 6:21 pm)

Christine Harris, Chairwoman

**Board Members Absent**

Dr. Calvin McNeill

**East Orange Department Of Health And Human Services Staff**

Rochelle Evans, Health Officer

Donna Littlejohn, Board Secretary

Ryan Linder, Asst. Corporation Counsel (Absent)

**Approval Of May 19, 2015 Minutes**

Board President Harris moved to approve the May 19, 2015 minutes as presented and seconded by Board Member Corbitt. After a roll call vote, the minutes were approved as presented.

**ESSEX REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION**

President Harris opened the discussion concerning the City's membership with the Essex Regional Health Commission and expressed her concern about the benefits to the municipality. She noted that while the Commission's epidemiologist would conduct staff training, the benefit/service does not justify the annual \$15,000.00 membership fee.

Board member Corbitt expressed her concern about the exact nature of the organization and commented that with the anticipated cuts to the Department's budget, the membership fee could be put to better use in another area.

Health Director Officer Rochelle Evans reported on her attendance at a class with the Morris County Environmental Health Association (CEHA). She explained CEHAs receive

Funding from the State of New Jersey to address county environmental health issues. She added that the Morris County CEHA focuses on soil, water and air quality and outlined examples of the services provided to Morris County.

Ms. Evans further explained that the Essex Regional Health Commission is a CEHA and is employed by the Essex County Health Department. She reiterated the issue that businesses in non-member municipalities in Essex County receive the same services from the Essex Regional Health Commission as members due to the state funding. It is not clear why it seems that businesses in the non-member municipalities are not assessed a fee for inspections. She also expressed concern about the lack of transparency.

Board President Harris commented that she expects a report from Board attorney Ryan Linder concerning the Commission Charter or Memorandum of Understanding that specifies the criteria for withdrawing membership at the next meeting.

#### **ESSEX COUNTY HOMELESS CONNECT**

In response to President Harris' request, Ms. Evans noted that she is awaiting the Essex County Homeless Connect statistics for East Orange.

#### **BUDGET MATTERS**

Board President Harris reported that after speaking to Mayor Taylor concerning the Department's budget, was assured Mayor Taylor that there is room for adjustment.

Ms. Evans reported that Requests for Proposals have been made available for federally qualified health centers seeking to take over the Public Health and Dental clinics.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 6:36, the Board entered into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter and reconvened at 7:00 pm.

#### **OTHER MATTERS**

- Ms. Evans reported that the June 13<sup>th</sup> Rabies Clinic held at the Elmwood Firehouse was a success and 50 cats and dogs were immunized.
- Ms. Evans distributed an OPRA request she received from animal rights activists seeking Animal Shelter records. She reviewed the specifics with the members.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At the end of discussion, Board Member Barnes moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm and was seconded by Board Member Corbitt. The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18, 2015 at 5:30 PM.

Submitted by,

Donna Littlejohn  
Recording Clerk